

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

On-Site Activity

Grade 4

Life Through Artifacts

In these suggested activities, students will examine artifacts to discover the similarities and differences of the lives of the women of Maplecroft, including Clara Starr, the Starr daughters, Grandmother Clapp, a governess, and a cook/household servant.

Maplecroft House Tour

During the tour, highlight house appointments, artifacts, and other material culture that give clues to the quality of life of Starr family members. Examples might include indoor plumbing, gas lighting, wood stoves, hand-painted portraits, furniture, books, etc.

When touring the rooms of the governess and the cook's quarters, ask students to compare and contrast these rooms with the Starr family rooms, including appointments, artifacts, and other material culture.

Questions to ask might include:

- How do the Starr family rooms and the artifacts reflect this family's standing in the community?
- What can you learn about the Starr family from their possessions?
- How do the artifacts tell you about the daily lives of both the family members and the house staff?
- What similarities do you find in both the family rooms and the staff rooms? What differences? How do those tell you about the daily lives of the family and staff?

Blake House Tour

Assemble a collection of period objects and documents for students to examine to determine whether each item meets the criteria to be considered an artifact. Some of the materials could be printed on cardstock if desired.

Suggestions for items include:

- Book with cataloguing information on the flyleaf
- Stereoscope and card(s)
- Photo of Ruth Starr Blake with birdcage (see provided image)
- Wellesley entrance exam (see provided image)
- Emmi Coombs site drawing of Rosemont (see provided image)
- Lucy Patterson's will
- Needlework sampler
- Sewing items
- Clothing/fabric
- Kitchen items

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Distribute the **Artifact? Analysis worksheet**. Have students work individually or in pairs to analyze each object and complete the information. Share responses and provide additional information.

Additional Artifact Information

- **Book:** Like all the books in the Starr family collection, the flyleaf of this book shows the bookcase letter and shelf number to show where it belongs in their library.
- **Stereoscope and cards:** These items were popular entertainment for people of all ages during the Starrs' life and times.
- **Photograph of Ruth Starr Blake:** Ruth, one of the six daughters of Frank and Clara Starr, loved birds. When she grew up, Ruth and her husband, Arthur Blake, built and lived in this house on her parents' property.
- **Wellesley entrance exam:** We know from one of Frank Starr's letters in 1889 that he wanted his daughters to attend Wellesley College. This is an important insight because there were few families at that time who allowed their daughters to attend colleges and universities to pursue higher education.
- **Emmie Coombs drawing of Rosemont:** Frank and Clara Starrs' niece, Emmie, drew a map of the property behind Maplecroft. (See the building marked "Uncle Frank's" for the Maplecroft location.) Emmie provided great details on the flowers, fruits, and vegetables planted around the property.
- **Lucy Patterson's will:** Lucy Orton Patterson was listed as a servant in the Starrs' household in the 1880 census. Her will tells us more about Lucy's surviving family, where she lived and died, and how much property she owned at her passing.

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ARTIFACT? ANALYSIS

ARTIFACT: something made and used by people in the past.

Historians can study artifacts to learn about how people lived.

Closely examine each item. Answer the questions to determine whether the object could be classified as an artifact. If you're not sure, use your observation and analysis skills to make your best suggestion.

What is this item?	What is it made of?	Who might have made it?	How was it used?	What else can it tell us?	Is this an artifact? (yes/no)

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Activity Resource: Photograph of Ruth Starr Blake



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Activity Resource: Wellesley College Entrance Exam

Wellesley College, "Wellesley Early Entrance Exam," *The Albert M. Greenfield Digital Center for the History of Women's Education*, accessed October 1, 2018, <http://greenfield.brynmawr.edu/items/show/1439>.

WELLESLEY COLLEGE.

Entrance Examinations, June, 1888.

BIBLE HISTORY.

1. Contrast the character of the two sons of Isaac.
2. Outline the career of Noah.
3. Give in detail the covenant with Abraham, and under what circumstances it was made.
4. Give an outline history of the sojourn of the Israelites in Egypt.
5. When and how was the Passover instituted, and what was its significance?

UNITED STATES HISTORY.

1. What tribes of Indians formed the five nations? By what general name were they known, and what territory did they occupy?
2. Where was Fort Duquesne? What expedition was led against it in 1755, and with what result?
3. What religious sect established itself in Massachusetts? Attitude toward other sects? Illustrate.
4. By whom was Maryland settled, and with what object?
5. Who was Verrazani? By whom commissioned? What coast did he explore, and what claims were founded on his explorations?

WELLESLEY COLLEGE.

Entrance Examinations, June, 1888.

ANCIENT GEOGRAPHY.

1. Name and locate the geographical divisions of Peloponnesus.
2. Name and carefully describe three large rivers of Italy.
3. Bound Palestine, Macedonia, Egypt, in the first century B. C.
4. Locate Antioch, Nicæa, Pergamus, Ephesus.
5. Bound Arcolis and name its principal cities.

MODERN GEOGRAPHY.

1. What river separates Mexico from Texas? What is the chief Mexican port on the Gulf of Mexico?
2. Describe the Danube River, telling where it rises, through what countries and in what direction it flows, and into what it empties?
3. Draw lines representing the equator and the meridian of Washington, and locate a point in 40° north latitude and 90° west longitude.
4. What mountains separate Thibet from Hindoostan? The Chinese Empire from Asiatic Russia?
5. Through what large river does each of the following lakes discharge its waters into the sea: Oneida, Chautauqua, Lake of the Woods, Champlain?

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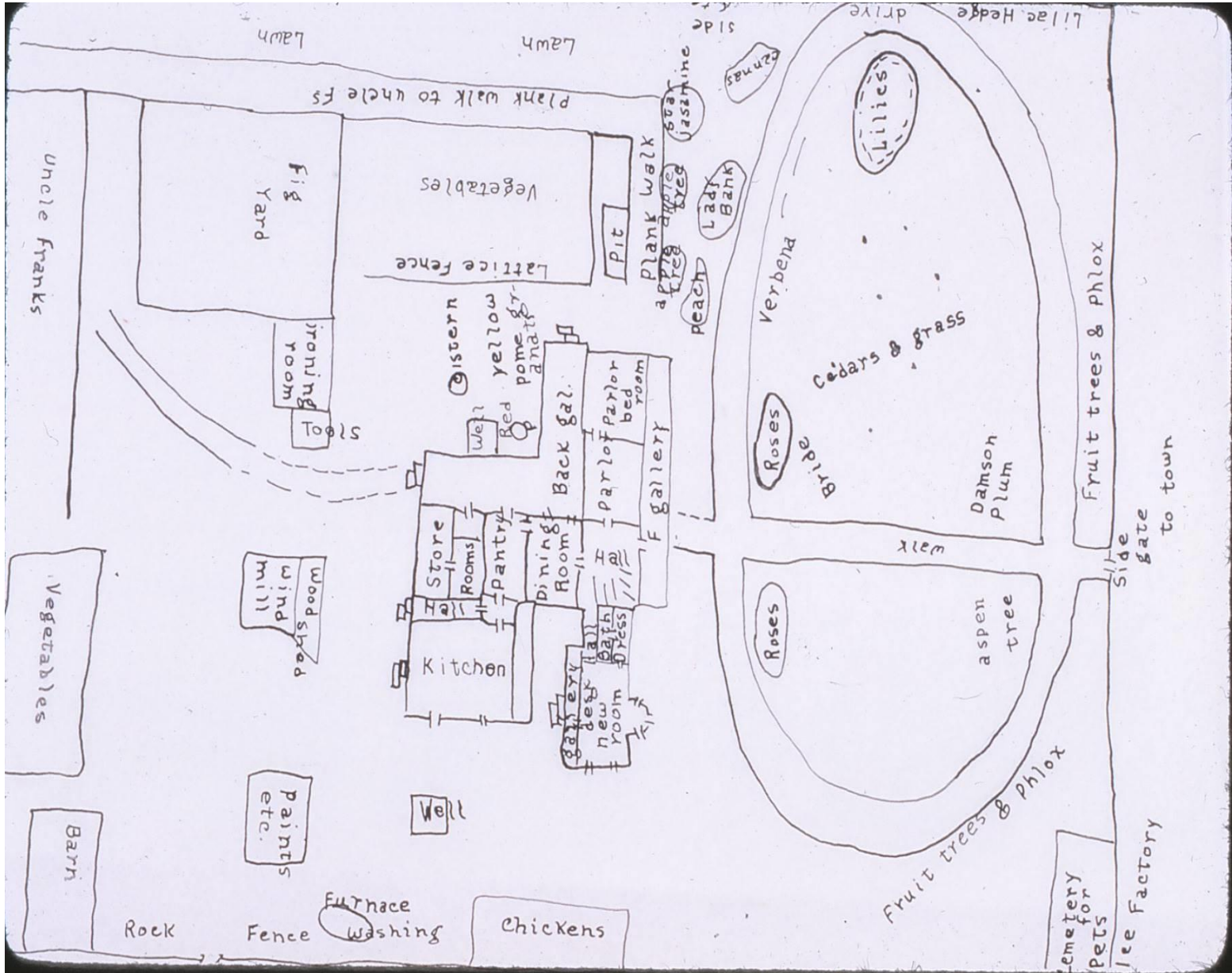
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Activity Resource: Drawing of Rosemont by Emmie Coombs



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Activity Resource: Will of Lucy Patterson

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State of Texas)
Harrison County, Texas)

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN:

I, Lucy Patterson (widow of Booker Patterson, Deceased) being of sound and disposing mind, do hereby make this, my last will and testament hereby revoking all previous wills by me made

First, I desire that all my just debts be paid.

Second: I will and bequeath to my daughter Jennie Nixon, widow of C B Nixon, an undivided one half interest in and to all of my property, regardless of whether the same be real or personal,

Third: The other one half of all my real and personal property I hereby will and bequeath to my three grand children, to wit: Chauncey McFarlin, Blanton McFarlin and Gertrude McFarlin Smith, the three said grand children being the children of Almoe McFarlin and Annie McFarlin deceased.

Fourth: I hereby make, nominate and appoint Jennie Nixon, sole executrix of this will and I especially provide that the probate court shall exercise no jurisdiction over my estate save and except to probate my will and file inventory and list of claims and shall require no bond of said executrix, May 31st 1911

her
Lucy X Patterson
mark
By John Copeland,

Witness.
R S Welch,
P. M. Herndon.
H. P. Watson Co. Clerk
Filed 11 day of March 1917.
W G Rudd, Deputy.

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State of Texas : IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HARRISON COUNTY, TEXAS.
County of Harrison

IN THE MATTER OF LUCY PATTERSON:
Deceased,
March Term A D 1917.

I do solemnly swear that the writing which has been offered for probate, is the last will and testament of Lucy Patterson, deceased, so far as I know or believe, and that I will well and truly perform all the duties of executrix of the said will of the estate of Lucy Patterson, Deceased.

Mrs. J V Nixon, Executrix.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this the 7 day of March A D 1917.

H P Watson Clerk County Court,
Harrison County, Texas,

(L S)

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LETTERS TESTAMENTARY:

The State of Texas) IN THE COUNTY COURT HARRISON COUNTY, TEXAS,
County of Harrison)

MARCH TERM A D 1917.

I, H P. Watson, Clerk of the County Court of Harrison County, Texas, do hereby certify that on the 7 day of March A D 1917 Jennie Nixon was duly granted by said court letters testamentary of the Estate of Lucy Patterson deceased and that she qualified as such ex-

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executrix on the 7 day of March A D 1917 as the law requires,
Witness my hand and seal of office at Marshall, this 8 day of March A D 1917
H P. Watson, Clerk
County Court, Harrison County, Texas,

(L S)

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State of Texas, In the County Court of Harrison County, Texas,
County of Harrison,)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LUCY PATTERSON, DECEASED.

INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF LUCY PATTERSON, DECEASED, PRODUCED BEFORE THE UNDERSIGNED APPRAISERS ON THE DAY OF MARCH 1917, BY JENNIE NIXON EXECUTRIX OF SAID WILL OF THE ESTATE OF LUCY PATTERSON DECEASED.

Separate Property of Lucy Patterson, Deceased.

One lot located in the city of Marshall, Harrison County, Texas value - -	\$300.00
Personal property-account in first National Bank, - - - - -	\$ 72.35
Account in State Bank of Marshall - - - - -	13.00
Total in Banks, - - - - -	\$85.35

We, the undersigned appraisers, do solemnly swear that the foregoing is a true and fair appraisement of the estate of Lucy Patterson, Deceased, produced before us by Jennie Nixon Executrix,

Robert C Bibb,
F M. Scott,
H L Betts, Appraisers

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this the 7 day of March A D 1917.

H P. Watson, County Clerk.
Harrison County, Texas,

(L S)

List of Claims, None.

I, Jennie Nixon, do solemnly swear that the foregoing inventory and list is a full and complete inventory and list of the property and claims of Lucy Patterson, deceased, that have come to my knowledge.

Mrs. Jennie Nixon, Executrix,

(L S)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this the 7 day of March A D 1917.

H P. Watson, County clerk
Harrison County, Texas.

Filed March 7, 1917.
H P. Watson, Clerk,
by A M Johnston, Deputy.

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Estate of Lucy Patterson, Deceased,
In the County Court of Harrison County, Texas, March Term A D 1917.

On this the -- day of March A D 1917 came on to be considered the report of the inventory, appraisement and list of claims of the state of Lucy Patterson, Deceased, made by Robert C Bibb, F M Scott and L. H. Betts, who have heretofore been appointed by the Court to appraise said estate.

The court having examined the same, it is ordered by the court that the said report be and it is hereby in all respects approved and ordered entered of record.

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